

Application No.: 10/790,742
Art Unit: 1744

Attorney Docket No. 24410.00
Confirmation No. 2875

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 9 and added Claims 14-20. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9, and 15 are independent claims.

Claims 9, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (U.S. Patent No. 2,117,174). Claims 9, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Calame (U.S. Patent No. 2,252,879). Claims 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyerhoefer (U.S. Patent No. 3,118,165). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyerhoefer in view of Gringer (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,605). The indication by the Examiner in the recent Office Action that Claims 1-8 were allowable over the prior art of record is noted with appreciation.

Applicant will advance arguments hereinbelow to illustrate the manner in which the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable from the cited and applied prior art. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended independent claim 9 to recite that the strip is attached to a front end of a blade of a dustpan. Neither Jones, Calame nor Meyerhoefer teach a strip as claimed being attached to a dustpan. Jones teaches a strip that is attached to a toothbrush. Calame teaches a cutting blade strip. Meyerhoefer teaches a strip that is attached to a squeegee suction cleaner. Neither toothbrushes, cutting blades, nor squeegee suction cleaners are analogous art to a dustpan. None of the other prior art made

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of record and not relied upon provide any motivation for the attachment of the strips of Jones, Calame, or Meyerhoefer to the front blade of a dustpan. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, Claims 9-14 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Applicant has further added new independent claim 15, which is similar to original Claim 9 but has more clearly defined the circular segments as semi-circular protruding segments. Jones and Calame each teach strips having pointed protrusions that do not constitute semi-circular protrusions, but instead have semi-circular recesses between each pointed protrusion. Meyerhoefer teaches a series of blunt protrusions that do not constitute semi-circular protrusions, but instead has semi-circular recesses between each blunt protrusion. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least this these reasons, Claims 15-20 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

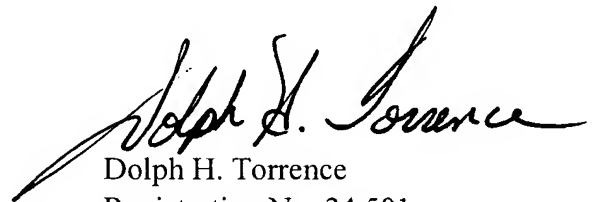
Support for the amendments to claim 9 and the added claims may be found at page 8, lines 17-18 and in Fig. 3 of the instant application.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolph H. Torrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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DHT::gwh

Attachment